

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04

FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /064 W

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O 082123Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8526

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4799

DEPARTMENT PASS COPY TO EXIM BANK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, PFOR, HO

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PUBLICATION OF ARTICLE RE EXIM MEMO

REFS: (A) STATE 245981; (B) TEGUCIGALPA 4751

SUMMARY: PUBLICATION OF EXIM MEMO HAS CAUSED FLURRY OF REACTION IN MEDIA BY VARIOUS GOH SPOKESMEN REFUTING ALLEGED QUESTIONABLE CREDIT-WORTHINESS OF GOH. GOH ANGERED BY WHAT IT VIEWS AS ATTACK ON ITS INTERNAL POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL POSITIONS. MINFIN HAS MADE REPEATED REQUESTS FOR WRITTEN STATEMENT CONTAINING POINTS OUTLINED IN REF (A). EMBASSY REQUESTS EXIM TO ISSUE STATEMENT CLARIFYING MATTER. END SUMMARY.

1. ON NOV. 8, IN REFUTATION OF MINFIN'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS DOWNPLAYING NOV. 6 "LA PRENSA" ARTICLE, "LA PRENSA" PUBLISHED FULL TEXT OF MEMORANDUM (EMBASSY POUCHING COPY). ALL LOCAL PRESS GIVING HEAVY PLAY TO MATTER. EXIM MEMO HAS BEEN PUBLICLY ATTACKED BY MINFIN; MIN. OF COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION, AND PUBLIC WORKS; AND PRESIDENT OF HONDURAN CENTRAL BANK. ESSENCE OF ATTACKS BASED ON ALLEGED
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"SUPERFICIALITY" OF EXIM ANALYSIS AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL

INSITUATION SUPPORT OF GOH ALREADY MANIFESTED BY RECENT LOANS TOTALING U.S. \$60 MILLION FROM THE UN, IMF, AND ASSOC. OF LATIN AMERICAN BANKS.

2. GOH ANGRY ABOUT PUBLICATION OF MEMO SINCE IT HAS BEEN USED AS VEHICLE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR ATTACK ON GOH HANDLING OF ECONOMY AND BECAUSE OF ADVERSE AFFECT IT MAY HAVE ON OBTAINING ADDITIONAL CREDITS FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN FUTURE.

3. MINFIN NOT MOLLIFIED BY USG POSITION PRESENTED AS PER REFTTEL AND INSISTS THAT EMBASSY PROVIDE WRITTEN STATEMENT CONTAINING POINTS LISTED IN REF (A). EMBASSY BELIEVES FAR MORE APPROPRIATE THAT EXIM BANK ISSUE OWN CLARIFICATION.

4. EMBASSY INFORMED BY VICE PRESIDENT OF "LA PRENSA," ARNULFO GUTIERREZ, THAT MEMO SUPPLIED BY LIC. EDGARDO DUMAS RODRIGUEZ (FORMER MINFIN OF HONDURAS AND PRESENTLY SPOKESMAN FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR GROUP COHEP). ACCORDING TO GUTIERREZ, DUMAS RECEIVED MEMO FROM LIC. ENRIQUE ORTEZ COLINDRES, PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL AMERICAN BANK FOR ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE REGARDING HOW ORTEZ OBTAINED MEMO.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF SERIOUSNESS WHICH GOH VIEWS THIS MATTER, EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT EXIM PROMPTLY ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT CLARIFYING THIS MATTER.
SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

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